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**Trade subprogramme's strategic framework for 2020-2021**

# Trade Subprogramme's Strategic Framework for 2020-2021: Note by the secretariat

1. In December 2017, the 72nd session of the General Assembly (GA) adopted resolution A/72/266 "Shifting the management paradigm in the United Nations." Under the terms of this resolution, Member States approved the main elements of the Secretary-General's budget reform proposals contained in his report "Shifting the management paradigm in the United Nations: improving and streamlining the programme planning and budgeting process" (A/72/492/Add.1).

2. In particular, the GA approved the proposed change from a biennial to an annual budget cycle on a trial basis (beginning in 2020). The Proposed Programme Budget will consist of the following three parts:

(a) Part I: the plan outline, which presents the long-term priorities and the objectives of the Organization;

(b) Part II: the programme plan for programmes and subprogrammes and programme performance information; and

(c) Part III: the post and non-post resource requirements for the programmes and subprogrammes.

3. The United Nations Headquarters in New York is in the process of developing the structure, template and guidance for the 2020 annual programme plan and budget. Part I will be prepared by the United Nations headquarters in New York, and submitted to the GA through the Committee for Programme and Coordination every 3 years. Parts II and III will be prepared by the secretariats of the United Nations departments, including ECE, on an annual basis. They will be submitted to the GA through the Committee for Programme and Coordination (Part II) and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (Part III).

4. In light of the above, the Trade subprogramme's draft Strategic Framework for 2020-2021 (contained in document ECE/CTCS/2018/13) will not be finalized. Its main elements will be included in the draft ECE programme plan and budget for 2020. Given

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that the next session of the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards will be held in 2019, delegates are invited to review and endorse the broad areas of work contained in the Trade subprogramme's Strategic Framework for 2020-2021 and provide their comments to the secretariat. The broad areas will be included in the document, which will be submitted to the Bureau of the Steering Committee for comments at the end of 2018. The document will then be submitted to the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions for their consideration during their annual sessions in 2019. Their recommendations therein will be transmitted to the GA during its seventy-third session in 2019, when member States will consider the Secretary-General's proposed programme plan and budget for 2020.